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## UA3/8/10 The Inauguration of Thomas C. Meredith

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# THE INAUGURATION

OF THOMAS C. MEREDITH, EIGHTH PRESIDENT OF WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

**T**he color, excitement, and academic pageantry of a presidential inauguration will surround the campus of Western Kentucky University this week as Dr. Thomas C. Meredith takes the oath of office as the eighth president in the institution's 83-year history.

"An inauguration marks a milestone in the life of any educational institution," said Joseph Iracane, chairman of the WKU Board of Regents. "This inauguration is indicative of the direction that Western is moving - a direction of enthusiasm, commitment to quality and a genuine care for young people."

The inauguration ceremony will take place on Friday, April 14, at 2 p.m. in Van Meter Hall. The investiture of Western's president will be the highlight of week-long activities featuring campus performing groups, prominent national lecturers, community spirit and recognition of former leaders and administrators of the university.

■ Activities begin Monday, April 10, with a 3 p.m. reception for WKU faculty, staff and students at the Kentucky Building. The reception, hosted by the Warren County Alumni Club of the WKU Alumni Association, will feature remarks at 3:30 p.m. by Kevin Brooks, president of the chapter.

■ "Last Laugh with Alex Cole", a part of WKU's annual Senior Send-off, will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Downing University Center Theatre. Cole, a noted collegiate comedian, will be the entertainment for the event billed as "the first reunion of the Class of 1989." The performance is sponsored by the Student Alumni Association and the University Center Board. Various door prizes will be available for members of the WKU senior class.

■ Frank Roberts, president of the New York Times Broadcast Group, will speak on "Challenges Facing the Broadcast Industry in the 1990s" on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Grise Hall Auditorium. Roberts, president and general manager of WREG-TV in Memphis, heads the group that includes television stations in Tennessee, New York, Arkansas, Alabama, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

■ The Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a community dinner on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the ballroom of the Garrett Conference Center. Rep. Billy Ray Smith will serve as master of ceremonies and Dr. Lowell Harrison will speak on the administrations of previous Western presidents. Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce office.

■ Former and current members of the WKU Board of Regents will be recognized during a dinner Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Kentucky Building. The invitation-only banquet will bring together more than 50 current and former members of the WKU governing body.

■ A concert featuring faculty and student performing groups will begin at 8 p.m. Thursday in Van Meter Hall. The event will include performances by The University Chorale, The Dance Company, The Jazz Band, The Amazing Tones of Joy, The Show Choir, The Percussion Ensemble and The Western Players.

■ Friday's activities begin at 10 with a slide presentation featuring the art collection of Ann McKeel Ross of the Florida Arts Commission. Ross is a graduate of WKU and the presentation will be held on the fourth floor of the Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center.

■ The Inauguration Ceremony begins at 2 p.m. in Van Meter Auditorium and will be highlighted by the investiture of Dr. Meredith as the university's eighth president. Dr. R. Gerald Turner, chancellor of the University of Mississippi, will be the keynote speaker. A reception will follow the ceremony at 3:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the Garrett Conference Center.

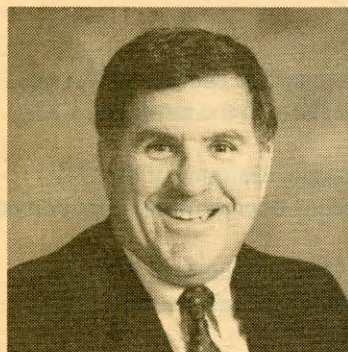
■ The Inaugural Ball, a community celebration co-chaired by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas M. Lester, will be held at The Innovation Center, Louisville Road at Third Street, at 9 p.m. and will feature the music of the Pat Patrick Orchestra. Tickets are available from Virginia Crump at Citizens National Bank.

Proceeds from the ball will be used to establish the Inaugural Scholarship Fund. The fund will finance annual scholarships for deserving students displaying academic achievement, leadership ability and community involvement.

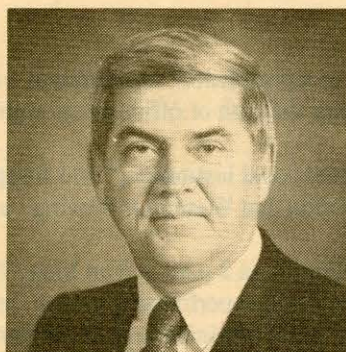
A 17-member campus committee made up of students, faculty and staff contributed to the planning and development of the inauguration activities.



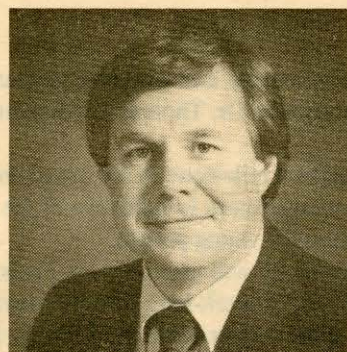
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY  
*BOARD OF REGENTS*



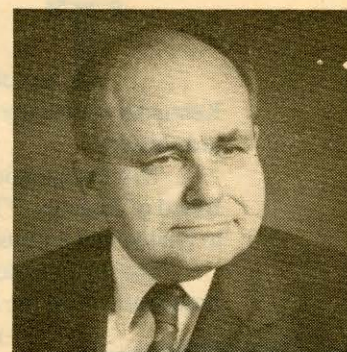
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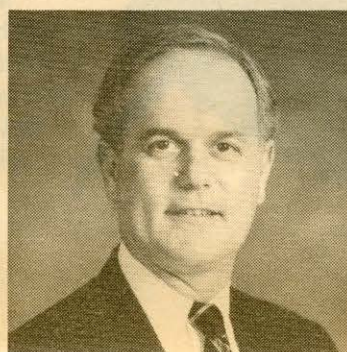
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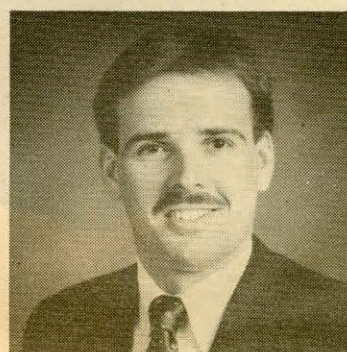
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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Presidential Exhibit

An exhibit of memorabilia highlighting the administrations of Western's eight presidents will be on display at various campus locations throughout Inauguration Week.

Contact: Mr. Riley Handy, Kentucky Museum, 745-6264.

## MONDAY, APRIL 10

■ 3 p.m.

### Reception for Faculty, Staff and Students

*Kentucky Building*

The Inauguration celebration begins with a reception for WKU faculty, staff and students hosted by the Warren County Alumni Club. Brief remarks will be presented at 3:30 p.m. by Kevin Brooks, president of the Warren County Alumni Club.

Contact: Dr. Cecile Garmon, director of budget and planning, 745-6375.

■ 7:30 p.m.

### "Last Laugh With Alex Cole"

*Downing University Center Theatre*

WKU's annual Senior Send-Off features comedian Alex Cole in a performance sponsored by the Student Alumni Association and the University Center Board.

Contact: Mr. Ron Beck, associate director of alumni affairs, 745-4395.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 11

■ 7 p.m.

### "Challenges Facing the Broadcast Industry in the 1990s"

*Grise Hall Auditorium*

Lecture by Mr. Frank Roberts, President, New York Times Broadcast Group.

Contact: Dr. Randall Capps, department head, communication and broadcasting, 745-5134.



Various student and faculty musical groups will provide entertainment during the Inaugural Concert Thursday night.



Delegates from colleges, universities, learned societies and student organizations will join WKU faculty in the inaugural procession.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

■ 7 p.m.

### Community Dinner

*Garrett Conference Center*

The Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce will host a community dinner in the Garrett Conference Center Ballroom. Rep. Billy Ray Smith will serve as master of ceremonies and Dr. Lowell Harrison, university historian, will be the speaker. Tickets are available from the Chamber of Commerce.

Contact: Mr. Dennis Griffin, executive vice president, 781-3200.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 13

■ 6 p.m.

### Regents Dinner

*Kentucky Building*

Present and former regents will be honored at the Kentucky Building. More than 50 former regents are expected to join the current members of the governing body as a highlight of Inauguration Week.

Contact: Mrs. Elizabeth Esters, secretary to the board of regents, 745-5394.

■ 8 p.m.

### Inaugural Concert

*Van Meter Hall*

Student and Faculty groups will entertain during an inaugural concert in Van Meter Hall.

The University Chorale, The Dance Company, The Jazz Band, The Amazing Tones of Joy, The Show Choir, The Percussion Ensemble and The Western Players will be featured in a showcase of the performing arts. Contact: Dr. Kenneth Davis, director of choral activities, 745-5915.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 14

■ 10 a.m.

### "Living In The Art World"

*Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center*

A slide presentation featuring the collection of Ann McKeel Ross of the Florida Arts Council will be featured on the Fourth Floor of the Fine Arts Center.

Contact: Ms. Nancy Rosnow, head of the art department, 745-3944.

■ 2 p.m.

### Inauguration Ceremony

*Van Meter Hall*

The investiture of Dr. Thomas C. Meredith as the eighth president of Western Kentucky University will take place in one of the University's most impressive landmarks.

Dr. R. Gerald Turner, chancellor of the University of Mississippi, will be the keynote speaker.

■ 3:30 p.m.

### Reception

*Garrett Conference Center*

A reception will follow the inaugural ceremony in the Ballroom of the Garrett Conference Center.

■ 9 p.m.

### The Inaugural Ball

*The Innovation Center*

The community will bring the Inaugural activities to a close with The Inaugural Ball to be held at The Innovation Center (Louisville Road at Third Street). Proceeds from the event will establish the Inaugural Scholarship Fund. Ticket required. Contact: Virginia Crump, Citizens National Bank, 781-5000 ext. 202.

*This special publication was produced by the Office of Public Information at Western Kentucky University through the generous sponsorship of American National Bank, Bowling Green Bank and Trust, Citizens National Bank, The Cumberland, First Federal Savings and Loan and the Western Kentucky University Credit Union. Edited by Fred Hensley. Design by Tom Meacham. Photography by Bob Skipper. Written by Bob Adams, Sheila Eison, Fred Hensley, Bob Skipper and Jeff Younglove. Typesetting by Cindy Lee.*

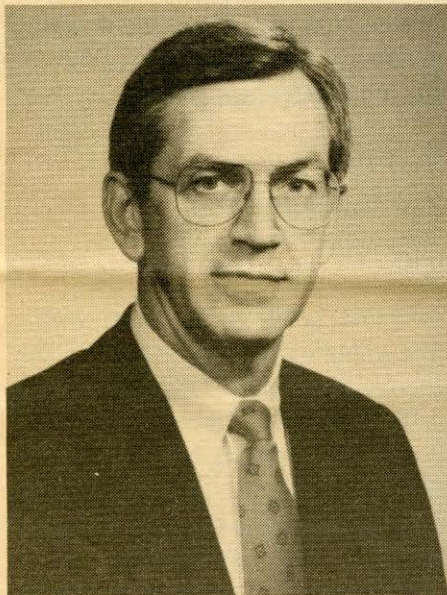


# PRESIDENT THOMAS C. MEREDITH

"Our whole reason for being is to prepare young people to be contributing members of our society."

With that concise vision of the role of a major state university, Dr. Thomas C. Meredith explained his educational philosophy to the Western Kentucky University faculty during his on-campus interview last August.

Less than 24 hours later, the 47-year-old native of Owensboro was selected from a field of more than 100 candidates as WKU's eighth president.



(left) Dr. Thomas C. Meredith

*Dr. Meredith, self-described as a "high energy" person, enjoys talking with campus visitors during the College High Reunion last summer (top right) and often takes time from his busy schedule to visit with students (below). WKU's President shared in the announcement of the continuation of a 10K road race in Bowling Green with Mayor Patsy Sloan, WKU alumnus Ashley Johnson and Rick Kelley, director of the Bowling Green 10K (bottom).*



Dr. Meredith came to Western from the University of Mississippi where he served as vice chancellor for executive affairs and as an adjunct professor of higher education.



As Vice Chancellor at Ole Miss, He coordinated the daily activities of the campus in the absence of the chancellor and served as the University's liaison with the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

Dr. Meredith received his bachelor's degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College in 1963, his master's degree in educational administration from WKU in 1966 and his doctorate in educational administration from the University of Mississippi in 1971.

He served 10 years with the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi's governing body for its eight state universities, as academic programs officer and associate director for programs and planning.

His classroom instruction includes courses in education, administration, curriculum development and public relations taught at Indiana University Southeast, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi.

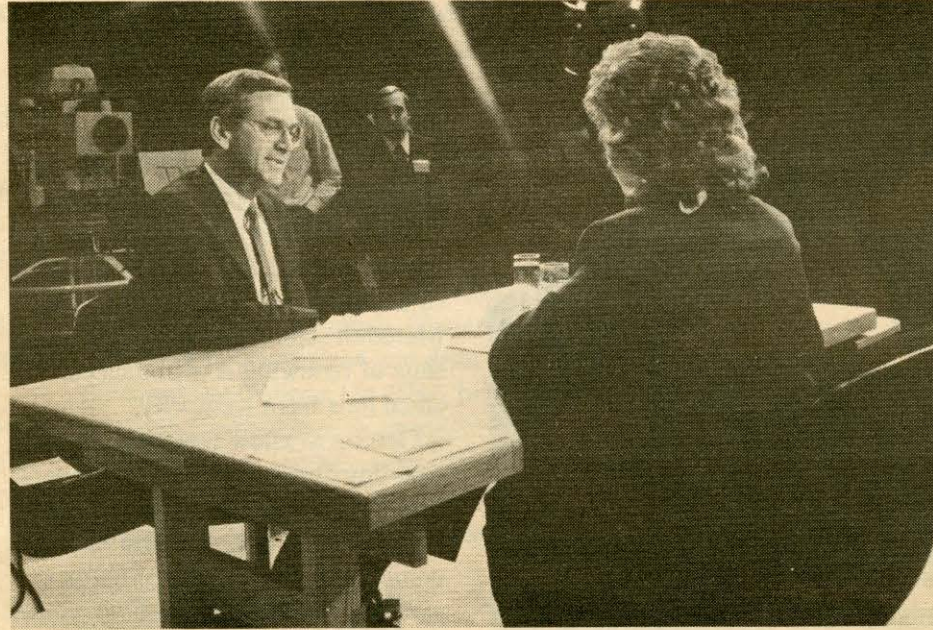
He previously served as director of pupil personnel services at Jeffersonville High School in Indiana, principal at LaHarpe High School in Illinois, and as a political science teacher and coach at Owensboro



Senior High School. He also was a graduate assistant and an institutional research analyst in the Bureau of Institutional Research in the School of Education at Ole Miss.

Dr. Meredith served as chairman of the state-wide committee to develop an implementation agreement for admission standards and standards for deferred math courses and served as chairman of the University of Mississippi committee to study and develop new promotion and tenure policies.

He previously served as a member of the University System Committee to study Mississippi's funding formula, a member of the National Identification Project for the advancement of Women in Higher Education, monitored and supervised the development of funded Centers



of Excellence at Mississippi's comprehensive universities, and served on the select task force for

Educational Excellence commissioned by Gov. William Winter to summarize and develop an action plan for the prestigious Education Reform Act of Mississippi.

Dr. Meredith has authored or co-authored a number of articles,

manuals and papers, and has addressed numerous education associations and non-educational groups on a variety of topics related to secondary and higher education.

His professional research activities included the development and completion of a review process for all academic programs below the doctoral level in the Mississippi public university system. The process, conducted in cooperation with more than 100 academic consultants nationwide, resulted in the review of more than 750 degree programs and the deletion of nearly 250 degree programs from Mississippi's system of higher education. He also coordinated a study that resulted in the establishment of a common minimum core of general education courses in the public universities of Mississippi. He also directed research in enrollment forecasting, gifted and talented education, faculty staffing, evaluations and in-service, non-credit activities.

His commitment to his alma mater was never greater than on the day he was named its president when he said - "Western is great and will get greater. That's going to happen in a relatively short time, and I want to be a part of it."



(top) Dr. Meredith joined WKYU-TV's Barbara Deeb during the sign-on telecast of WKU's public television station in January and joined student regent Scott Whitehouse (above) in welcoming President Ronald Reagan to Western in October.



(Above) Dr. Meredith enjoys a lighter moment with Howard Gray of Glasgow, recipient of a Distinguished Alumnus Award last year, and (at right) participates in the naming ceremony for the L. D. Brown Agriculture Exposition Center with Mrs. Brown and Joseph Iracane, chairman of the WKU Board of Regents.





# THE MEREDITH FAMILY



Susan Meredith is a typical working mother.

Well, maybe not typical — unless you consider entertaining about 700 people in your home in the past six months as typical.

Or attending banquets seemingly as often as you eat at home.

Or going to a basketball game or play or a musical performance or lecture or community activity almost every night of the week.

But for Mrs. Meredith, wife of President Thomas Meredith, being Western's First Lady hasn't produced any surprises or embarrassing situations, yet.

Mrs. Meredith said that the family's public life at the University of Mississippi, where her husband was Vice Chancellor for Executive Affairs, prepared them for their busy schedule at Western.

"This is not much different than Ole Miss as far as the schedule is concerned," she said. Mrs. Meredith

said the biggest change occurred when her husband decided to take the position in Oxford after working for 10 years in Jackson on Mississippi's statewide governing board for higher education.

"That's when we did discuss at great length being in the public eye," she said. "We like to entertain, and if we didn't like people we wouldn't be in this business."

While Mrs. Meredith knows that the family will always be involved in university and community activities, she expects the schedule to slow a bit after the first couple of years.

The Merediths have been trying to accept as many invitations as possible for university and civic gatherings across the state. "Any time we go to a new place we try to get to know the people. We're not stay-at-home-and-watch-TV people."

The Merediths also have been visiting churches since they have been in Bowling Green but haven't transferred their memberships yet. "I grew up in the Baptist church and Tom in the Methodist church, and when we moved to Jackson, we became Presbyterians."

Mrs. Meredith said the main prerequisite is a good youth program

"wherever we are all comfortable." In the meantime, she attends an interdenominational Bible study every week.

Moving to a new community also means learning how to get around. "This is the first time for me that we moved where I didn't know anybody or anything about the school," Mrs. Meredith said. "For Tom, it's been a time of renewing acquaintances, since he's from Kentucky."

Getting to know how to get around Bowling Green is especially important for a mother of two sons. She said a portrait of her typical day would include a picture of her in a car taking fifth grader Matt to soccer practice or eighth grader Mark to basketball practice or the golf course or tennis courts or the mall — and then picking them up.

"That's what mothers do, isn't it?"

For Matt, who will be 11 on April 20, and Mark, who turned 14 on April 9, the move to Bowling Green meant leaving friends.

Mark said he likes living in Bowling Green. "I've made a lot of friends and am starting to get used to it here." Mark, who attends Bowling Green Junior High, played basketball this year and plans to try out for the

basketball and golf teams next year at Bowling Green High.

Playing with the family's dog Sophie, a Cairn terrier, Mark talked enthusiastically about sports and more dutifully about his piano lessons.

Even with three tests facing him the next day, Mark wasn't concerned.

"Mark is pretty good about studying a little bit every day and keeping up," Mrs. Meredith said. "Now, Matt is more likely to study a lot the night before. But," she added quickly, "he's getting better at time management."

Mrs. Meredith and boys agreed that they're anxious for school to be out because the family will be taking off for their annual vacation in Florida. "We usually go the day after Christmas, but we couldn't go this year," she said.

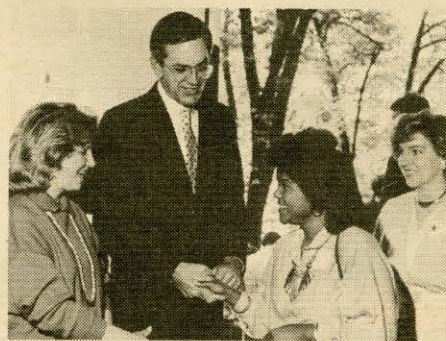
The vacation is a chance for the



family to relax, watch movies, play games and stay up late — things they can't always do during the school year.

Matt, who is playing soccer for the Lancers, will be playing baseball in the Bowling Green East Little League this summer. Mark, who retired from baseball after last season and soccer after 13 seasons, will concentrate on water skiing, golf (he shoots 46 or 47), bicycling, swimming and tennis.

Mrs. Meredith said she gets involved when she attends games when her sons are playing. Since becoming First Lady at Western, she said she has "tried to be a little more dignified."



(above, left) Mrs. Meredith finds quiet time at the piano.

(At left) WKU's First Lady welcomes students during a reception at the Alumni Center. The Merediths have hosted more than 700 visitors to the President's Home in the past six months. Above, she finds time to coordinate her campus and community involvement with the busy schedule of two sons and a presidential husband.



A sports enthusiast herself, Mrs. Meredith plays in a league at Tennis-town. "I like to play competitively," she said. "I like to win."

Her competitive nature comes naturally as the only girl in a family with four younger brothers. "I was the most natural athlete in the family," the Booneville, Miss., native said. "I really wanted to play defensive end or tackle," she added, even though few 5-foot-2 petite blondes have had successful careers at those positions.

Both boys are baseball card collectors. Matt's favorite player is Don Mattingly of the New York Yankees "because he was born on the same day as me." His favorite teams are the Yankees and Cincinnati Reds.

The Reds and Pete Rose are Mark's favorites. He's been collecting baseball cards four or five years, and both boys estimate their collections at somewhere over 1,000 cards apiece.

Mrs. Meredith said she hopes the family will be able to go to Cincinnati for a few days this summer and see the Reds play.

The boys plan to go to church camps this summer. Matt will return to Oxford, Miss., to attend Camp Hopewell, while Mark is looking forward to two weeks at church camp in North Carolina "and maybe a basketball camp or two."

Both boys also are taking piano lessons. Mrs. Meredith said she is looking forward to the time when "Mark can play duets with me. I don't know if he'll ever get to that point, though."

Music has played an important part in Mrs. Meredith's life. She was director of a church choir for four years and accompanist for 10 years before that. She especially likes contemporary Christian music, but admits, "I never got used to performing in front of people."

Mrs. Meredith also taught music in a private elementary school in Mississippi.

In addition to playing the piano, Mrs. Meredith said she played the soprano saxophone and took guitar



lessons for a while. "I'd like to learn to play a string instrument, "but Western doesn't have a string program."

Mrs. Meredith said that although her husband doesn't play an instrument, "he has a nice bass voice."

Mrs. Meredith said a typical day means being up by 6:30 and getting everybody off to school. "One of them (the boys) usually has some kind of practice after school and there's something almost every night."

So far, Mrs. Meredith said she has visited a lot of organizations but hasn't done much joining. She did serve as honorary chairperson for the Big Brothers-Big Sisters annual fundraising and she has become a member of the board of the Bowling Green-Western Community Orchestra.

Balancing the roles of mother, wife and First Lady requires help. And Mrs. Meredith said their housekeeper, Ree Heater, has been invaluable. "I couldn't live this kind of life without her help." Other support areas, such as Food Services and Maintenance, have made her job easier, Mrs. Meredith said.

As a journalism major at the University of Mississippi, Mrs. Meredith learned that "public relations skills are something you can always use no matter what field

you end up in."

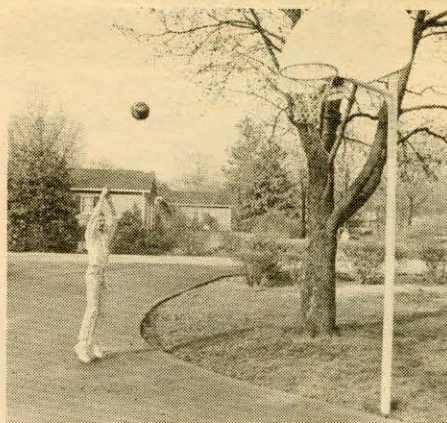
In Jackson, she was an account executive for an advertising agency before becoming public relations director for Hinds General Hospital. She also was director of the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association.

Mrs. Meredith recently spoke to students in the Public Relations Student Society chapter at Western about her job at the hospital. She told about 15 students that successful public relations depends on a person's ability to attend to details that will make others look good, know a little bit about everything and have a positive self-image.

"You just have one opportunity to make a first impression," she said.

\*\*\*

Mrs. Meredith said people in Bowling Green have been "friendly, open and welcoming." And she said that the people at Western are friendlier and warmer than people at most universities she has visited.



(top) Matt, a soccer player, will celebrate his 11th birthday on April 20.

(above) Mark, who turned 14 on April 9, is a basketball player at Bowling Green Junior High and also excels in tennis and golf.

Mrs. Meredith said she has been visiting departments with her husband and has been "impressed with the faculty and the research they are doing" and with the amount of time faculty members spend with students. "You don't find places where faculty are willing to spend time with students they way they do here."

And she said that the students "come from good, sound families and have been taught good, basic values. I'm old-fashioned enough to like that," she said.

Mrs. Meredith appreciates family values. "We try to do as many things as possible as a family," she said. "We used to try to keep Friday nights for the family. But that's pretty hard with a teenager."

She thinks the boys have adjusted pretty well to their new role as First Family members. "It's a little more difficult because people are watching them more," she said. "But they like people, like entertaining and like being included."

Mark agrees that there have been changes. "Our parents are gone more and we have to go to more things. And we can't mess up in public because a lot more people know you."

Perhaps the favorite family outing is going for a ride in their 1972 yellow Volkswagen convertible with the top down. Or go to the tennis courts. Or go on vacation. Or to church. Or to a ballgame.

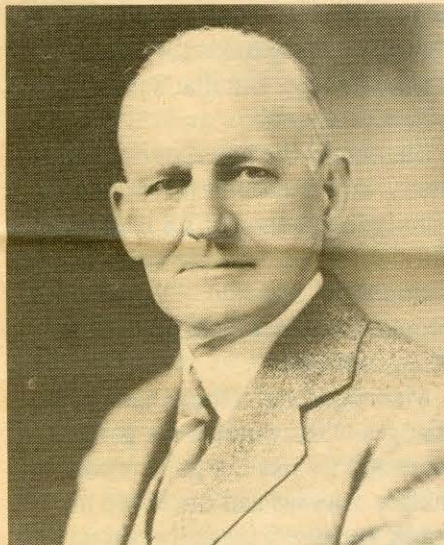
Anywhere together — as a family.



# FORMER PRESIDENTS OF WKU

Someone once wrote, "It takes a great man to plant a tree under whose shade he knows he will never sit."

In Western Kentucky University's 83-year history, seven leaders have cast long shadows over the hilltop. Under their direction, a heritage was built, a heritage of strength in academic and athletic excellence, a fierce pride in what the traditional colors of Red and White represent, and a dedication to make WKU continually improve access to education. Here's a look at WKU's leadership from the beginning...



**Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry**  
1906-1937

Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry assumed presidential duties at Western in 1906. Already an internationally-known pioneer in the field of higher education, especially in teacher training, Dr. Cherry led Western from a small, relatively unknown normal school to a large, widely recognized teachers college.

"A college is not its campus, its walks, its buildings," Dr. Cherry once said. "A college is an ideal, a spirit, a long tradition, a zeal for more life and more knowledge."

That statement, in substance, has come down through the years to be known as "The Western Spirit." That spirit has remained through the years, and has lifted the college to great heights in meeting an infinite variety of challenges. It was one of many gifts from Western's founder, whose personality influenced the school and left many legends and traditions on the Hill.

Dr. Cherry was a member of the executive committee which organized a statewide campaign for better educational conditions, memorializing the General Assembly of 1908, which enacted more constructive legislation possibly than any other legislature in the history of the Commonwealth up to that time.



**Dr. Paul L. Garrett**  
1937-1955

Western's second president, Dr. Paul L. Garrett, was interested in the welfare of students on the Hill. During the 18 years of his presidency, Dr. Garrett was able to bring to reality the dream of his predecessor, Dr. Cherry, by supervising completion of the Kentucky Building.

He was noted as a prominent educator in Kentucky and in the South.

A native of Shelby County, Ky., Dr. Garrett led Western through a pe-

riod when enrollments dipped drastically and strength to survive was necessary—during the World War II years.

Times became tough, but of a different nature than those WKU experiences today. They offered challenges to Dr. Garrett, who is documented in the University Archives as heading for Washington, D.C. to offer campus facilities for the war effort.



**Dr. Kelly Thompson**  
1955-1969

Today, as chairman of the board of the College Heights Foundation, Dr. Kelly Thompson is still on the job.

Dr. Thompson's career began in 1929, when Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry, hired him to serve as a field representative.

"You know, when you get to looking around, I'm one of the last links to the founder's career and to the beginning of this organization," he says, laughing. Dr. Thompson was the University's third president from 1955 to 1969. After his retirement, he became president of the College Heights Foundation, a post he held until January 1980, when he assumed the role as chairman of the Foundation's board.

He was elevated to the Western presidency after 26 years as a member of the administrative staff as field representative, director of public relations, assistant to the president and as acting president after the death of Dr. Garrett.

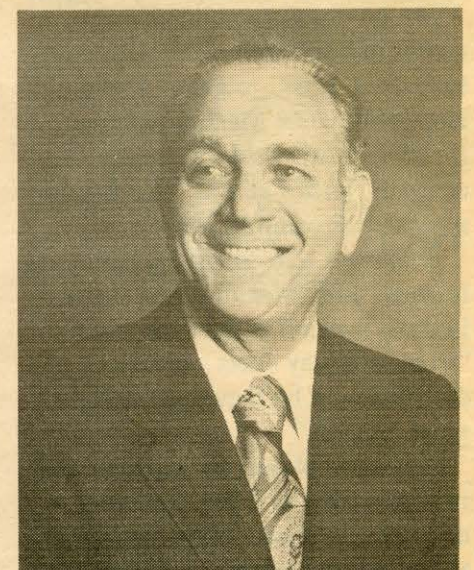
Dr. Thompson reorganized and developed the Foundation with the result

that its growth has been extraordinary. In 1969, when Dr. Thompson stepped down from the presidency of Western and assumed the position of president of the College Heights Foundation, the agency changed and expanded, adding a memorial fund for contributions to be kept in perpetuity.

Under Dr. Thompson's direction, the Kentucky General Assembly elevated the institution to university status on June 16, 1966.

In recognition of his work and leadership during the progressive decade of the '60s, Dr. Thompson was honored by the Kentucky Press Association as "The Outstanding Kentuckian of the Year," and Gov. Edward T. Breathitt presented Dr. Thompson with the first "Kentucky Distinguished Citizen Award" in 1965.

The Western Kentucky University Affiliate of the National Public Relations Student Society of America honored Dr. Thompson in 1977 by designating its official name the Kelly Thompson Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America.



**Dr. Dero G. Downing**  
1969-1979

Dr. Dero G. Downing, associated with Western Kentucky University for 40 years and president of the institution for 10 years, completed his term as fourth president of the University Jan. 8, 1979.

He now serves as president of the



College Heights Foundation, a post he assumed in Feb. 1980.

The native of Fountain Run, Ky., came to Western on a basketball scholarship in the fall of 1939 and went on to become a starting guard on some of Coach E. A. Diddle's finest teams, including the 1942 squad that was the first Hilltopper team to participate in the National Invitational Tournament in New York. That squad came home with the runner-up trophy.

Dr. Downing has held various positions on Western's faculty and administrative staff since 1946. Prior to becoming vice president, he was dean of business affairs and also served as dean of admissions. He also held the post of registrar.

When he came to Western in 1946, he taught mathematics and was basketball coach in the high school division of the University's Training School.



**Dr. John D. Minton  
1979**

Dr. John Minton was named fifth president of Western Kentucky University by the Board of Regents when he held the top administrative post during the long and difficult eight-month search for a replacement for President Dero Downing.

During that period, he also maintained his position as vice president for Administrative Affairs, and he returned to that post when the Board appointed Dr. Donald Zacharias in May, 1979.

A native of Trigg County, Dr. Minton taught at Trigg County High School and served as principal there

before joining WKU's faculty as a member of the history department in 1958.

An expert on "The New Deal in Tennessee," Dr. Minton has authored a book and several articles about the Southern state's view during the period of 1932-38.

Dr. Minton held several administrative offices in his tenure at Western.

He was associate dean and dean of the Graduate College. In 1981, his title was changed to vice president for Student Affairs and he assumed the additional responsibility of supervising the areas of Scholastic Development.



**Dr. Donald W. Zacharias  
1979-85**

"The Universities which survive the next 10 years will do so because of their creativity and commitment to quality," Dr. Donald Zacharias told Western Kentucky University's alumni in a message shortly after becoming the university's sixth president on August 1, 1979.

The leadership of Dr. Zacharias was manifest in his own personal commitment to that creativity and quality which he named as essential elements in administering a university.

Dr. Zacharias was the recipient of two major teaching awards, the Indiana University Teaching Award in 1963 and the Cactus Teaching Award at the University of Texas at Austin in 1971. He has authored and contributed to numerous publications in the area of speech communication.

Prior to his appointment at Western, Dr. Zacharias had served since 1978 as executive secretary to the chancellor of the University of Texas System.

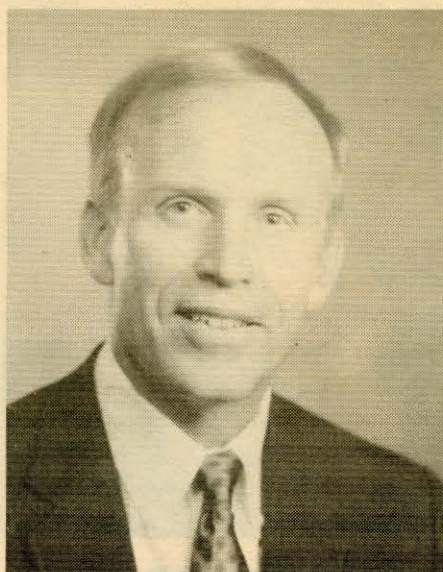
He was a member of the UT-Austin faculty prior to his appointment with the UT System, and served as assistant to the UT-Austin President from 1974-1978.

During his tenure as Western's President, Zacharias faced severe state-mandated budget cuts, bringing some of the toughest challenges Kentucky public higher education has ever faced.

Reflecting a nationwide trend, the budget reductions had painful consequences upon every phase of the University's operation.

"This is a bitter pill for us all," Western's president prophesied. "And yet, I learned to appreciate the cooperative spirit that comes from the people working on campus who have been toughened by adversity," he said.

Not since the Garrett administration, had a president been faced with such financial challenges as the Zacharias administration.



**Dr. Kern Alexander  
1985-1987**

Dr. Kern Alexander became WKU's seventh president in December 1985.

During his two and one-half years

at Western he engineered the establishment of a Community College, an aggressive recruiting campaign that saw enrollments soar to record numbers, development of building plans for a new student health and activities center, the stimulation of intellectual exchange by establishing a Nobel Laureate Lecture Series, and the expansion of a Glasgow campus.

Born in Marrowbone, Ky., June 30, 1988, the son of two educators, Samuel Kern Alexander Jr. pursued the same path toward becoming an educator, while establishing himself in an impressively short time as a distinguished national educational consultant.

Dr. Alexander completed his baccalaureate studies in English and history at Centre College in Danville before earning the master of arts in education at Western. He received the doctor of education degree in educational administration from Indiana University, and completed post-doctoral study with distinction at the University of Oxford, Pembroke College, in Oxford, England.

Dr. Alexander began his teaching career at Fairdale High School in Jefferson County in 1962. He also taught at Valley High School in Louisville and in 1964 he went to the Kentucky Department of Education, assisting local school districts in their fiscal planning and later became Director of the Division of Statistical Services and Legislative liaison for the State Department.

Alexander's philosophy as WKU's seventh president was "attracting good quality students and maintaining open access. Western was established to provide higher education and service to Kentucky."

He left WKU last summer to assume duties as a distinguished professor at Virginia Tech.



# INAUGURAL EVENTS

## The Inaugural Speaker

The man who served as mentor for Western Kentucky University's president for four years will deliver the keynote address during Dr. Thomas C. Meredith's inauguration ceremony.

Dr. R. Gerald Turner, chancellor at the University of Mississippi, will be featured during the academic ceremony in Western's Van Meter Auditorium Friday, April 14th, at 2 p.m.

Dr. Turner began his tenure at Ole Miss in 1984 as the 22nd Chancellor at one of the South's most distinguished institutions. He brought with him a reputation as a hardworking educator with tireless dedication and has lived up to that advance billing.

Dr. Turner instituted the first "Campaign for Ole Miss" which attracts major private contributions. More than \$61.1 million has been raised during the campaign. Funds have been used for a \$5 million ambulatory care facility for the University Medical Center in Jackson; a \$9.7 million National Center for Physical Acoustics and provides vital library resources and endowed faculty positions.

Dr. Turner's new emphasis on recruiting and having a quality campus life for university students has resulted in growth in enrollment.

The Texas native's educational background includes an associate of arts in mathematics degree from Lubbock Christian College, a bachelor of science in psychology from Abilene Christian University and a

master of arts and a doctor of philosophy in psychology, both from the University of Texas at Austin. He has co-authored a book and produced numerous scholarly papers in his field.

Prior to being named Chancellor of the University of Mississippi, Turner was the Vice President for Executive Affairs at the University of Oklahoma. He also served as an associate professor and executive assistant to the president at OU.

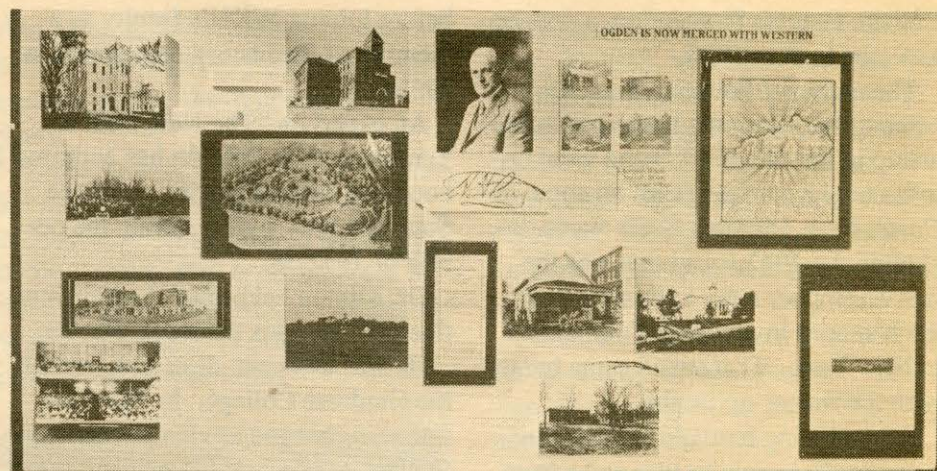
Turner held teaching positions at San Antonio College and Prairie View A&M from 1970-75 and served at Pepperdine University in California from 1975-79.

He has been listed in a number of Who's Who categories. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Chi honor societies.

Dr. Meredith served under Dr. Turner as Vice Chancellor for Executive Affairs prior to being named Western's eighth president in August, 1988.



*Grammy and Dove award winner Larnelle Harris, a graduate of Western Kentucky University, will participate in the Inauguration ceremony on Friday in Van Meter Auditorium. Harris will sing "Let Freedom Ring" during the 2 p.m. program.*



*The exhibit of memorabilia highlighting the administrations of Western's eight presidents will be on display at various campus locations throughout Inauguration Week.*

## Presidential Exhibit

A special attraction for attendees of Inauguration Week activities will be an Inaugural Display highlighting memorabilia from the administrations of all eight presidents of Western Kentucky University.

Prepared by the Department of Library Special Collections, the display will feature memorabilia that represent each president's unique contribution to Western.

For example, here's what one might see:

\*Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry: Western In Its Infancy—early photographs of Western's campus, depicting Southern Normal School (our first home), "moving day" when students carried equipment up the hill to "College Heights," and headlines — "Ogden now Merged With Western;"

\*Dr. Paul L. Garrett: The War Years — headlines reading "War conditions result in heavy losses to enrollment at Western," but also the beginning of intramural sports;

\*Dr. E. Kelly Thompson: Western on the Grow — Ground breakings for buildings across campus, and Western becomes a University;

\*Dr. Dero G. Downing: A Time of Firsts — the Faculty Senate is organized, the first female student is elected to the Board of Regents and students join nationwide protests in a time of national political unrest;

\*Dr. John Minton: A Time of

Transition — WKU's first interim president holds the campus together while national search is conducted for new president;

\*Dr. Donald Zacharias: A Time of Changes — attention turns to searching for funding in period of economic decline for higher education in Kentucky;

\*Dr. Samuel Kern Alexander — A Time for Tradition — Western opens the Glasgow campus, the "Fish Fry" for school administrators returns, Centers of Excellence are established, a Community College begins and WKU rallies for higher education;

\*Dr. Thomas C. Meredith — Highlights of the first six months in office are displayed. An alumnus of Western is picked as president and is officially inaugurated April 14, 1989 in Van Meter Auditorium.



## Inaugural Concert

Something for everyone is the idea behind the Inaugural Concert set for Thursday, April 13, at 8 p.m. in Van Meter Auditorium. Seven of Western Kentucky University's music, theater and dance groups will be highlighted during the night's program.

Dr. Kenneth Davis, director of choral activities at Western said, "It's meant to be a very high-powered kind of concert. It's all music, dance and theatre that you'd call entertaining."

The night will open with a performance by The Jazz Band and concludes with a 10-minute selection of works by The University Chorale. Davis said music from Billy Joel will be featured in the chorale's numbers along with a Tennessee folk song.

The Western Dance Company will perform "Switched on Bach," and "Too Dam Hot" from the musical, "Kiss Me Kate."

Ragtime music will be featured by The Percussion Ensemble. The Western Players will perform, "What Kites Are For."

Other groups performing include Western's Show Choir and The Amazing Tones of Joy.

Davis said the concert will, "appeal

to a variety of people. It's a showcase (of Western groups) and we're using the best that we've got."

Individual performances will range from 4 to 12 minutes depending on the group, Davis said.

The night of entertainment will be emceed by Christopher Norton, assistant professor of music at Western. The program is open to the public and there is no admission charge.



*The Inaugural Concert will present a showcase of the performing arts.*

## Inaugural Ball

The activities surrounding Dr. Thomas C. Meredith's inaugural week are many and varied. But, the final event should be one of the most exciting. The inaugural ball concludes the week's events Friday, April 14, beginning at 9 p.m. at the Bowling Green Innovation Center.

Mr and Mrs. Douglas M. Lester Lester, co-chairpersons for the event said they felt the Ball is a good way to show their support for the university.

"The reason we're involved in it is that we want continued communication between the university and the community. Western is truly our most valuable employer and one of the most valuable assets that Bowling



*Members of the Bowling Green Garden Club, with the assistance of the Bicentennial Garden Club and the Ruth Rabold Garden Club, have assisted in the development and preparation of decorations for various Inaugural activities.*

Green has," Lester said "We would like for the business community to recognize this and be involved in the Ball."

The entertainment also promises to be top-of-the-line. The Pat Patrick Orchestra will perform and features a variety of music. "We wanted to have someone who would appeal to a broad range of people and we have just that in the Pat Patrick Orchestra," Mrs. Lester said.

The event is being provided through private support, and Mrs. Lester added that while invitations are being sent, the Ball is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Mr. or Mrs. Doug Lester at 782-7157 or 781-5000 (ext. 202).

Proceeds from the event will establish the Inaugural Scholarship Fund which will provide scholarships for deserving students.

## Community Dinner

As a highlight of Inauguration Week at WKU, the Board of Directors of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce will host a dinner honoring Dr. and Mrs. Meredith and their family Wednesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. in the Ballroom of the Garrett Conference Center.

Chamber Executive Vice President Dennis Griffin says the dinner honoring WKU's eighth president "symbolizes the importance the Chamber places upon Western Kentucky University's relationship to the Chamber and to the community. We are delighted to host this event."

Rep. Billy Ray Smith, 1987 president of the Chamber, will be master of ceremonies and Dr. Lowell Harrison, professor emeritus of history at WKU and University historian, in a delightful and often quite humorous presentation, will give comments on past presidents of Western.

Tickets for the dinner are \$18 each, and Chamber members and the public are invited to attend.

"We are delighted to have this opportunity to honor Dr. Meredith and his family," Griffin says.

Tickets are available at the Chamber office at 812 State St., or persons may call for reservations at the Chamber at 781-3200 through April 10.



## HISTORY OF WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

### Change and continuity.

On the surface, the two seem to be opposed. But while the school on the Hill has seen much change since it was founded as the Western Kentucky State Normal School in 1906, the basic mission has stayed the same—providing a quality education.

The latest change came in August, 1988 when Dr. Thomas C. Meredith was appointed the eighth president of Western Kentucky University. The institution Dr. Meredith now leads faces a future as colorful as its somewhat fragmented past.

Officially, Western dates back to the normal school created in 1906. The state legislature established the school as an institution dedicated to high academic achievement.

But the roots reach further. In

1875, A.W. Mell organized the Glasgow Normal School and charged it “to furnish the elements of a liberal education to both male and female, at an expense that is within reach of all classes who may desire an education.” The school moved to Bowling Green in 1884 and became The Southern Normal School and Business College—two schools under the same management.

In 1892, two brothers, Henry

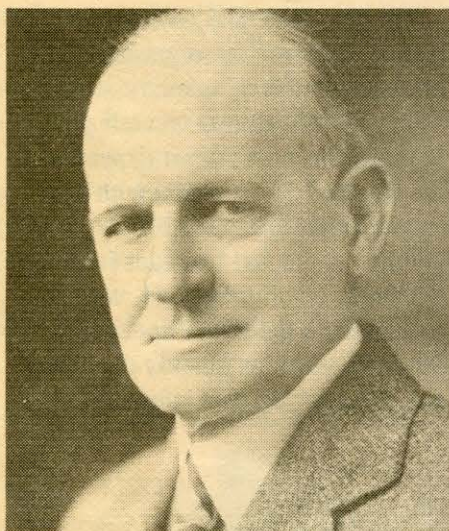
Hardin and Thomas Crittenden Cherry, assumed control of what they called the Bowling Green Business College and Literary Institute. After several name changes, the two schools became Bowling Green Business University and the Southern Normal School.

Henry Hardin Cherry became the

*Changes in Hilltop architecture are apparent in this vintage photograph. On the far right the Recitation Hall and Cabell Hall can be seen, now both demolished.*







President H. H. Cherry

first president of Western Kentucky Normal School when it was established in 1906 from the Southern Normal School. BU, as the business university was referred to, continued to develop, becoming a junior college in 1922 and a senior college four years later. In 1963, BU became a part of Western's structure.

There are more pieces of the overall puzzle of Western's history. In 1928, Ogden College became a part of Western. Ogden College,

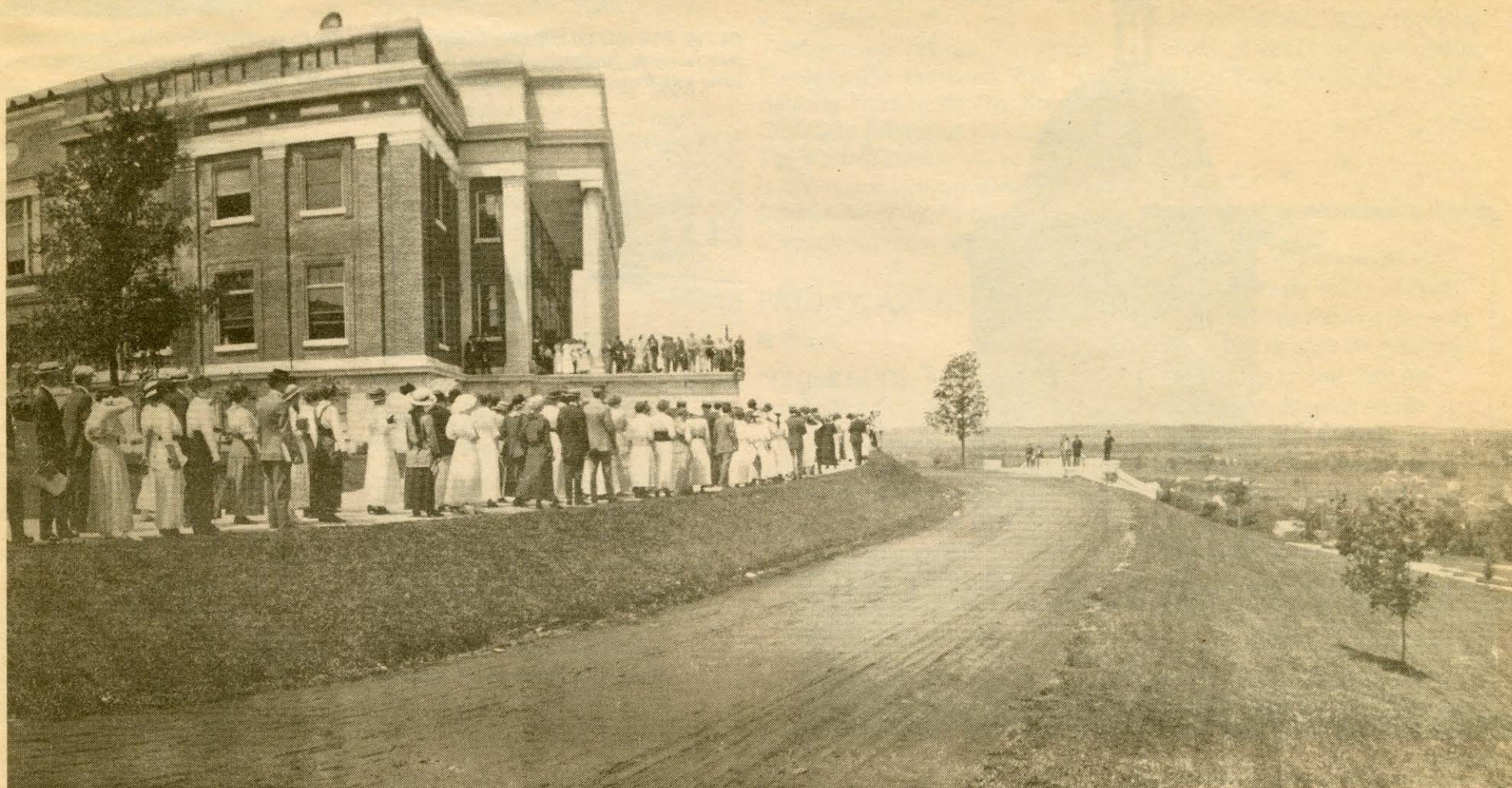
founded in 1877, was a predominantly liberal arts college for men.

The Pleasant J. Potter College for Young Ladies opened on Vinegar Hill in 1889. Its work was primarily liberal arts, although there was some emphasis on business. After the 1909 commencement, Potter College became a part of the Western Kentucky State Normal School, and in 1911 its buildings and campus became the nucleus of the present

Western campus known as "The Hill."

Western continued to evolve, becoming the Western Kentucky State Normal and Teachers College in 1922 and the Western Kentucky State Teachers College in 1920. In 1948, the name changed again, becoming Western Kentucky State College.

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continued from page 13

The final name change came in 1966 to Western Kentucky University. The school's organization, however, continues to reflect its rich past. The university is divided into five colleges, including the Potter College of Arts, Humanities and

Social Sciences and the Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health. The other colleges are the College of Business Administration, the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, and the Graduate College.

The evolution is continuing as the University has expanded to meet the

educational demands of the area.

The Community College of Western Kentucky University began in 1986 and Western Kentucky University at Glasgow brought the institution back to its Glasgow roots in 1988.

And growth is continuing. Enrollment topped 14,000 for the first time in the fall of 1988 and there are plans to further expand to accommodate the growing enrollment.

But the University's colorful history is more than organization, bricks and mortar, as many of the nearly 60,000 alumni can tell you. Perhaps the most enduring symbol of the Big Red Spirit began with Hill-topper Basketball Coach E.A. Diddle. As he led his team from the sidelines, Diddle clutched, waved and tossed a red towel in the air. Students and fans quickly caught on and Western became known as "red



On Feb. 17, a cold but exuberant Glasgow Business and Professional Women's Club celebrated their successful fundraising effort for the library at Western Kentucky University Glasgow, along with Western President Thomas C. Meredith (middle, right).



The Pylon



Cherry Hall



towel territory."

Another symbol of Western spirit came on the scene in the 1980s in the form of a furry mascot known as Big Red.

Symbols aside, the heart of the institution is its students. Among students in Kentucky, Western graduates annually have one of the highest rates of success in gaining admission to medical, dental, veterinary and pharmacy schools. The College of Education and Behavioral

Sciences has been nationally ranked for the quality of its teacher education program.

Students are also involved in many other activities, from clubs and Greek organizations to recruiting other students. One student activity that has made a big impact on the institution has been the annual Phonothon, during which students call alumni for donations. In 1988,

students raised more than \$96,000 through the Phonothon.

Throughout its history, Western has been a leader in higher education. In the future, the University will be on the cutting edge. And while this will necessitate change, the thread of continuity of excellence and quality will always remain.



*Big Red*

*The Colonnade*





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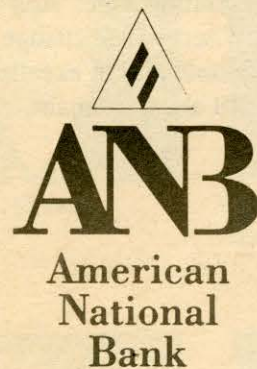
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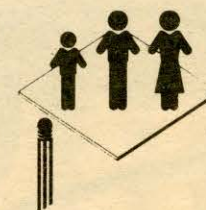
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